



Reducing the risks of hazardous pesticides in Georgia

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FAO Session, 7 November

12th International HCH & Pesticides Forum 2013, Kiev

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Women in Europe for a Common Future WECF

International network:

130 member organisations in 50 countries

4 offices: The Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland

Field office in Georgia

Areas of work:

- Chemicals and Waste
- Energy and Climate Change
- Agriculture
- Water and Sanitation
- Gender and Human Rights

Implementation of projects:

Mainly in CEE and EECCA region and in cooperation with local partner

The project

“Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries”

Overall objective

To minimize intended and unintended exposures of chemicals that poses an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment in Georgia

Specific Objective

To create awareness of hazardous chemicals in agriculture and promote the implementation of safer and preferably non chemical alternatives, especially for pesticides and biocides

The project

Implemented by

- NGO Greens Movement Georgia,
- SEMA,
- the Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association (GEBMA)

Coordinated by WECF

Key elements of the project implementation

- Investigation
- Demonstrating
- Communication and dialogues

Project received financial support from the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

Legal aspects of hazardous chemicals

Before 2003

Legislation was mainly based on the approaches and norms remaining from the Soviet period- requirements for production, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals was stricter than in following period

Liberalisation after 2003

laws in the field of production, use and disposal of the hazardous chemicals were liberalised, which had a negative influence in the issues of protection of human life, health and economic interests:

Partly laws were eliminated without adequate substitution, for example:

- The Law on Licensing of Activities in the field of production of Agrochemicals, Trade with Agrochemicals,
- Laboratory activities in the field of Agro-chemistry and Soil Protection and detecting the quality of Agrochemicals
- Issuance of import and export permits for Agrochemicals; the Law on Licensing production of and trade with pesticides and permits for their export/import
- the Law on Hazardous Chemicals and the Georgian Sanitary Code.

Legal aspects of hazardous chemicals

After 2003

Georgia became Partie of the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants that obliges Georgia e.g. to ban 9 most hazardous for the environment pesticides (endrin, toxaphene, aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, chlordane, mirex, DDT and benzachlor)

Georgia is a party to 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which regulates international trade procedures for 37 hazardous chemicals

However despite the fact that in Georgia issues covered by the Stockholm Convention are regulated by not less then 4 ministries and many lower level state authorities, there still is not any legal act

that correspond to the obligations outlined in the convention

The rights and responsibilities of the Focal Point are not defined, neither the requirements for accountability and creation of unified national database.

Status of enforcement of the hazardous chemical import regulations

It was observed, despite the legal banning, large quantities of some chemicals included in the list of the banned materials of the Ordinance No 133/n (26.03.2001) of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Security are still imported to Georgia.

The investigation demonstrated that a number of chemicals banned are represented just by a generalised code; for instance, code 3808 50 000 00 includes the list of banned pesticides.

In the period January- March 2011 a quantity of 563 kg chemicals with the code 3808 50 000 00 were imported from mainly Turkey and China

it is impossible to identify, particularly which substances and for which purposes they have been imported

Georgian pesticide market

Official data:

Up to 190 active substances and about 400 their various derivative complex preparations are registered

The total yearly quantity of imported pesticides is about 1300-1500 tons, where as

2010 approximately 8000 kg chemicals regulated by Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were imported to Georgia (Based on the Customs Office data).

Georgian pesticide market

The investigation showed:

Various sold pesticides are from Europe, produced by the companies like BASF, Syngenta, Bayer, Newfarm or Dupont.

There are sold analogue pesticides, produced in China, India, Turkey and Bulgaria

Their price and in terms of purity and affectivity, the quality of the analogues is relatively low and hence their reliability is doubtful and their impact on the environment and human health due to unfiltered additional substances even more adverse

There are about 150 specialized pesticide shops, farmers' houses, distribution networks, however consumers are unaware on risk related to pesticides' application, storage and disposal.

Packaging and marking (e.g. Georgian text and application instructions on the labels) of pesticides are not regulated neither controlled.

Need of adequate measures

- Strict regulations of marking and labelling the harmful chemicals
- Review of current regulations of storage, packaging, distribution and application of harmful chemicals
- Improvement of codification system and mechanisms

Establishment of

- monitoring system of turnover of the harmful chemicals
- reliable data base on the properties of authorized pesticides in Georgian language for importers, retailers, authorities and farmers

Extensive awareness raising campaign on pesticides

Steps moving forwards: best practices

- **Publications within the project:**
 - Hand-book with data base on pesticides in Georgia
 - Inventory of pesticides in Georgia
 - Posters, guideline, press releases
- **Practicing substitution of harmful pesticides**
 - A booklet with practical instructions how to prepare plant tinctures for crop protection
 - A demonstration farm/plot : effectiveness of local-made preparations of bio-pesticides, measures on pest prevention
- Dialogue between the policy makers, civil society and private sector

Demonstration plot in Ereda



Lessons Learned

- The lack of a sound legislative framework hampers the ability of all sectors to make meaningful progress on policy.
- There are experienced people in the different sectors willing to work together on chemical safety.
- Changes in public policy require the reengagement of government, civil society and the private sectors in dealing with chemical safety issues.

Thank you for your attention!

